



## CITY of NORFOLK

*Office of the Mayor*

February 20, 2015

Paul D. Fraim  
Mayor

Dear 2015 Virginia General Assembly Budget Conferees:

On behalf of the Norfolk City Council, I respectfully ask that you please consider the City of Norfolk's most important 2015 Budget Conference priorities. They are as follows:

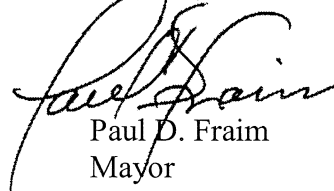
- **Include a \$30 million enhancement to the "Local Aid to the Commonwealth" program**, as contemplated in the Senate's budget. If this important item is not addressed in Conference, it will cause a \$1.4 million reduction in Norfolk's state funding. If unable to address this very important budget request, then please provide localities with additional flexibility in the required non-state match and maintenance of effort requirements for VJCCC and CSA programs.
- **Support the contemplated salary increases for teachers and state-supported local employees.** Please consider providing localities with the maximum flexibility possible in determining the timing of these salary increases and consider not mandating these salary increases.
- **Support the current eligibility standards for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), the Senate's VPI hold harmless floor, the Senate's VPI re-benchmarking methodology, and all efforts to update the per pupil amount for VPI in the next biennium.** If this budget item is not addressed in Conference, it will reduce Norfolk's VPI funding by \$1 million, which equates to 251 pre-k slots that Norfolk desperately needs.
- **Allow unexpended VPI statewide moneys to be redirected to localities who desire to expand their preschool programs.** Norfolk Public Schools currently has more than 600 preschool applications that we are unable to accommodate.
- **Support the Senate's \$7.7 million provision in additional state funding for eligible schools who wish to extend their school years to improve accreditation.**
- **Support the Senate's \$1 million in state funding for the Virginia Commonwealth University Teacher Residency (RTR) Program.** This highly effective program is having excellent success in placing hard-to-staff / high turnover schools teachers in Richmond Public Schools. This budget provision would expand the RTR program to include a demonstration project in Norfolk and Petersburg Public Schools.

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- **Support the Senate's \$10 million in stormwater bond funding.** Norfolk and many other local governments are in desperate need of additional state support in responding to our flooding challenges.
- **Address the statutory funding requirements of Aid to Police Departments (HB 599) at the rate of General Fund revenue growth.** Aid to Police Departments has been frozen or reduced since FY 2007.

We appreciate your difficult deliberations on these critical budget items and thank you in advance for your consideration of Norfolk's 2015 Budget Conference priorities.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Fraim  
Mayor

Cc:

Norfolk City Council  
Marcus Jones, City Manager  
Governor Terry McAuliffe  
Senator Kenneth Alexander  
Senator Lynwood Lewis  
Senator Frank Wagner  
Delegate Hester  
Delegate Lindsey  
Delegate James  
Delegate Joannou  
Delegate Bloxom  
Delegate Stolle